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PUBLIC EDUCATION BULLETIN

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AT HARRISBURG, FOR INFORMATION OF BOARDS OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING, AND INTERESTED CITIZENS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2904D OF THE SCHOOL LAWS

VOLUME I | FEBRUARY, 1934 | NUMBER 5

Department Plans For Centennial

Climaxed by a State championship spelling bee and old-fashioned singing school, preliminary plans for a two-day celebration in observance of the 100th anniversary of the signing of Pennsylvania's Free Schools Law have been announced as the Department's share in State-wide observance of Pennsylvania Education Week, April 1 to 7.

The Department of Public Instruction plans its celebration in the Forum of the Education Building in Harrisburg to signal the start of observance of the anniversary generally by schools, churches, clubs, and civic groups throughout the State. As now planned, the Department's contribution to the official centennial celebration starts Tuesday evening, April 3, and continues through Wednesday evening, April 4.

Tentative plans include dramatizations to illustrate the passage and defense of the Common Schools Law by the Legislatures of 1834 and 1835 and to show progress made in 100 years of free public education in Pennsylvania. Dr. C. F. Hoban, director of the State Museum, is chairman of the general Department committee on arrangements.

The celebration comes during the week following Easter Sunday. Every school in the State is expected to conduct a centennial program of its own during that week or some time before the end of the school year. A special informational pamphlet of 108 pages is now being distributed by the Department of Public Instruction to assist in the general observance of the centennial.

State-Wide Spelling Bee

In the old-fashioned spelling bee the Department seeks the aid of all county school superintendents to conduct county eliminations, preliminary to the State championship event. The county superintendents will conduct as many community bees as necessary and a final county-wide "spell down" to determine the best speller in each county. Each county winner will be eligible to enter the final event in Harrisburg on April 4 to determine the best speller in Pennsylvania.

The county spelling bees are to be open to any adult who has completed his or her schooling. In other words, present school and college students and teachers are barred, and the event is wide open to "old timers," the people who so thoroughly enjoyed events of this kind in the country schools in previous years.

The spelling bee is to be in charge of Dr. Lee L. Driver, chief of the Rural Schools Division. Special rules and regulations have been sent to each county school superintendent. Early returns indicate State-wide interest in the feature, with possibility of most counties being represented in the finals.

The old-fashioned singing school will not be a contest. It is planned as an accompanying feature of the final spelling bee where entrants and audience will hear and sing the songs that were popular fifty and a hundred years ago. M. Claude Rosenberry is in charge. Other sub-committee chairmen are W. M. Denison, Dr. H. H. Baish, J. E. Wagner, J. Y. Shambach, E. A. Quackenbush, J. F. Brougher, and D. M. Cresswell.

"While spelling bees are still held in many rural communities of the State, the practice is not nearly so common as in the years before good roads and rapid transportation made urban attractions readily available to people in the country," Superintendent James N. Rule declares. "Our plan is not only to revive interest in a rapidly disappearing custom, but to show in the entire program the value and advantage of our educational system as developed in its first 100 years, or since Governor George Wolf signed the free schools law on April 1, 1834."

THREE R'S OF SCHOOL RECOVERY

RESTORE and reconstruct our educational program so that every child in the Commonwealth may obtain foundational training and instruction necessary to social and civic competence.

REORGANIZE school district lines so as to provide consolidation of management.

REVISE our system of school support.

These are definite objectives for the immediate future. They constitute a program of action to promote public school recovery and reconstruction.

Pennsylvania's free public school system is now 100 years old. Business and government generally have kept pace with advancing civilization. Great progress has been made toward keeping our educational program in step with the times. Its advance has been checked but temporarily, we trust, by unusual conditions. Principles of school district organization and school support have lagged.

Cooperative effort will bring full recovery to mark the dawn of the second century for our public schools when the "Three R's of School Recovery" become an actuality.

JAMES N. RULE
Superintendent

Larger Unit Study Plan Approved

An important step toward achievement of equalized educational opportunity for all boys and girls in Pennsylvania was made at the closing session of the State School Directors' annual convention at Harrisburg on February 8.

The convention voted unanimously for adoption of the following resolution:

"That the Pennsylvania State School Directors' Association endorse a plan for the cooperative study of the units of school administration and its financing, undertaken by the Pennsylvania State Education Association and the Department of Public Instruction, and recommend that this Association cooperate in this study to the end that all forces in charge of the States' educational interests may agree upon a definite and workable program for presentation to the next Legislature; and further, that the President of this Organization be authorized to appoint three members of this Organization from the fourth class districts, one member from the third class districts, and one member from the second class districts to represent this Association in this movement."

This action agreed in substance with the recommendation of the association's special committee appointed in 1933 to study the larger unit problem with the exception that this committee recommended a group of three members, all from fourth class districts, to cooperate in a State study.

As soon as Mrs. Ida E. Wallace, retiring president of the association, names the members of the cooperative study committee, action will be taken towards completion of the study for presentation of recommendations to the session of the Legislature which meets in January, 1935. The association previously had adopted the report of its legislative committee. In this report it was recommended that the association cooperate in a "study to determine upon a more efficient unit of administration and its financing."

Superintendent Discusses Problems

Immediately preceding the adoption of the resolutions of the legislative and resolutions committees, State Superintendent James N. Rule outlined a definite program of action to promote public school recovery and reconstruction in Pennsylvania.

Main planks in his recovery platform were presented in three new R's. They are restoration of the educational program, reorganization of school district lines, and revision of the system of school support to bring relief to realty taxpayers.

School directors were asked by the State Superintendent to cooperate in a careful

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ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMS

In some ways it is rather unfortunate that Governor George Wolf selected April 1, 1834, to sign the Pennsylvania Common Schools Law. But no one at that time bothered to look 100 years into the future to see that the centennial anniversary of the event would fall on Easter Sunday, and that a large number of schools would be in session for only a few days that week because of the Easter vacation period. While the week beginning April 1, 1934, is to be proclaimed officially by Governor Gifford Pinchot as PENNSYLVANIA EDUCATION WEEK, the inconvenience of vacation conflict can be overcome in school and classroom observance.

In every public school in the Commonwealth there can and should be some official observance of the centennial during the week set aside for celebration of the signing of the law. The time and nature of formal free school anniversary programs is left entirely with local school officials. Many have prepared for general school centennial observance during the week, with more elaborate programs later, some culminating in commencement and promotional exercises in June. More than 500 school districts can trace actual origin of local public schools to the fall of 1834 when they were among the first to take advantage of the Common Schools Law. For these there is ample opportunity for a major celebration during the fall months. In fact, celebration opportunities are presented during the entire year.

But regardless of all other plans or lack of plans, let every school make a definite and lasting centennial contribution during PENNSYLVANIA EDUCATION WEEK, April 1 to 7.

RECOGNITION

The Philadelphia Award for 1933 went to a public school teacher. The Edward W. Bok foundation paid tribute directly to Dr. Lucy L. W. Wilson, since 1916 principal of the South Philadelphia High School for Girls, and thereby extended recognition generally to the teaching profession. The award is given annually in recognition of distinguished service rendered to Philadelphia by one of its citizens.

Dr. Wilson's immediate action in making the $10,000 award available as a loan fund for her needy pupils disclosed the primary interest of the true teacher—the welfare and advancement of her pupils.

PUBLIC EDUCATION congratulates a real teacher!

P. T. A. NEEDS TEACHERS

A study recently released by the office of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers indicates that twelve per cent of the membership of the National Congress are teachers. This means that less than one-fifth of the teachers of this country are members of parent-teacher associations. This organization, ever devoted to the welfare of childhood, marshaling all its strength in defense of public education, would seem to merit the enthusiastic support of every teacher.

It is highly desirable that a much larger percentage of the teachers of America should become members of the Congress through its state and local units. It is recommended that county and district superintendents, supervisors, principals, and teachers in Pennsylvania become associated actively with the Congress and participate in its affairs.

The very nature of the organization gives greater hope of a harmonious and balanced program for education if teachers as well as parents join the Congress and participate heartily in its various activities. This is true, of course, at all times, but is of tremendous importance at a time when all interested persons should be working for relief from the existing emergency in education.

"WOLVES IN PENNSYLVANIA"

(Written and read by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Richard J. Beamish, at a "Wolf Dinner," recently in Wilkes-Barre)

No wolves in Pennsylvania? Well, I'm no hunting man
But I've seen wolves in action. They stole and killed and ran.
Not Lobos and not Timbers, nor were they mean Coyotes
Three other breeds I've run across and set them down in notes.

The Wolves of WANT are lean and fierce. They range through shabby towns
Where famished men and women live in shanty tumble-downs.
They hunt through narrow alleys for the children of the poor.
From garret and from basement to the graveyard runs their spoor.

The Wolves of GREED are fat and proud. Their range is country wide.
Before them lawyer-foxes run and also at their side.
From every farm and shop and home, they take their thieving toll.
Incorporate, immune they rove, gray shapes that have no soul.

From hidden dens and guarded fens and from the gutter's slime
A gallows pack is on our track, the fearsome Wolves of CRIME.
They kidnap and they racketeer. They kill. They steal our votes
The while we talk of hunting for a few befurred coyotes.

And so I say let's have a hunt in Penn's Woods for the packs
That starve and raid and steal and kill. Let's follow all their tracks.
Enlist our children in the chase. Keep at it all the time,
Until we rout these wolf breeds out, lean WANT, fat GREED and CRIME.

Education Calendar

1934

February

21-24—Pennsylvania Conference of Social Welfare, Lancaster.
24-March 1—Department of Superintendence, N.E.A., Cleveland, Ohio.

March

8-10—Tenth Annual Convention, Columbia Scholastic Press Association, Columbia University, N. Y.
9-10—Northeastern Convention District, P.S.E.A., East Stroudsburg.
14-17—Southeastern Convention District and Schoolmen's Week, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

April

1-7—Pennsylvania Education Week, 100th Anniversary of Free Public Schools.
3-4—Department of Public Instruction Free School Centennial Program, The Forum, Harrisburg.
6-7—Southern Convention District, P. S. E. A., Carlisle.
27-28—Pennsylvania Forensic and Music League, Seventh Annual Final State Contests, Johnstown.
30-May 2—Institute for Education by Radio, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

May 4-5—State Home Economics Association, Pittsburgh.
May 13-19—Thirty-eighth Annual Convention, National Congress of Parents and Teachers, Des Moines, Iowa.
May 18—World Goodwill Day.
June 30-July 6—N.E.A. Convention, Washington, D. C.
July 31-Aug. 1-2—Pennsylvania State College Superintendent's Conference, State College.
Oct. 10-11—Education Congress.

School Board Time Table

First Half of 1934

The following dates are based on Sections of the School Code indicated.

April 10—Election of County Superintendents (1105), District Superintendents (1134). (For election of Assistant County and Assistant District Superintendents see Sections 1127 and 1136).
April or May—Prepare budget for levying taxes (563). Levy tax (537).
During May—Elect treasurer for one year beginning first Monday of July, 1934 (303).
On or before first Monday of May—Tax collector shall return to county commissioners taxes levied on seated lands for which no liens are filed (6319).
On or before June 1—Settle in full with tax collector (559).
June 15—Send list of members of school board on Form PIBB-20 to the Department of Public Instruction (317).
July 1—Application for appropriation for transportation (317).
First Monday of July—School year begins (536).
On or before first Monday of July—Board furnishes duplicate and warrant to tax collector (546).
First Monday of July or within five days thereafter—Auditors shall meet with boards in fourth class districts (2625).
April 1 to August 1—Adopt textbooks (703).
April 1 to September 1—Census enumeration of children between 6 and 16 (1425).

The Public School Centennial Celebration

An Open Letter to Friends of Education:

A Joint Resolution of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, approved by Governor Pinchot May 11, 1931, provides for the observance and commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the signing of the common schools law as follows:

WHEREAS, On April first, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-four will occur the one hundredth anniversary of the signing of the common schools law; and

WHEREAS, The service rendered to the State, through the enactment of that law, has been of such outstanding importance as to make the date of its signing one of historical significance; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that proper recognition should be given the efforts of Governor George Wolf, Samuel Breck, Thaddeus Stevens, and the others who so ardently advocated the enactment of the common schools law; therefore,

SECTION 1. Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, That the Governor of the State of Pennsylvania is hereby authorized to issue a proclamation designating the week beginning Sunday, April first, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-four, as Pennsylvania Education Week, and calling upon the school authorities, teachers, school children, and the people of the State to display the United States Flag and the Pennsylvania Flag during said education week, in honor of the one hundredth anniversary of the signing of the common schools law.

Chopping wood, milking cows, cooking, washing, and similar tasks were favorite occupations of boys and girls of Pennsylvania one hundred years ago, if we judge them by things they did most of the time. The Committee on Education of the House of Representatives, 1830-1831, estimated that of 400,000 children between five and fifteen years of age in the State, more than 250,000 had not been in school during the previous year. It may be added that those who did go to school, like Finnegan, were soon "off agin" since school terms were rarely more than three or four months long.

The school term was naturally no longer for the teacher than for the pupil. Salaries also left something to be desired—ten or twelve dollars a month at the best, and frequently only half of this sum. There were pleasures, however, in teaching in the good old times of which today's teachers do not know—the pleasure of teaching in schoolhouses in the process of becoming antiques; in log houses in which ventilation was a natural process; in making Jimmy repair the paper window pane that his well-aimed stone had broken; in preparing the switches that the teacher considered necessary for foundational application; in the roomy opportunity for dunce's stools that the eight square schoolhouse provided.

April 1, 1834, the Free Common Schools Act was signed by Governor Wolf. It seemed that progress, long in coming, was thus assured. The die-hards, however, seized their hatchets and started over the top. Governor Wolf valiantly defended his child of the year before. The fight raged with the die-hards in the ascendancy. All seemed lost when Thaddeus Stevens came to the rescue. His eloquence stirred the springs of human righteousness and compassion.

CENTENNIAL BULLETIN

The Department bulletin, "One Hundred Years of Free Public Schools in Pennsylvania," is being distributed through county and district superintendents. Requests for copies by teachers and other school people should be made through their offices. Interested citizens may obtain a copy of the 108-page illustrated pamphlet by writing to the Department of Public Instruction, Harrisburg.

The Free Schools Act was saved and the march toward an adequate education for all the people in the Commonwealth began. Today, the teacher who once was barely literate has been replaced by teachers whose certification requires a professional preparation undreamed of one hundred years ago. So, too, the rod and the dunce cap have been banished by kindliness and an appeal to natural interests.

At this time, the one-hundredth anniversary of the free public schools in Pennsylvania, it is appropriate that the people of the Commonwealth should review the educational origins of the State, celebrate its educational successes, and plan for future educational growth. To assist in this, the Department of Public Instruction has prepared a pamphlet, *One Hundred Years of Free Public Schools in Pennsylvania.* Four points are especially stressed:

1. Education in the State is briefly reviewed from its inception by our founders to the present time.
2. Programs for the schools of the State to be substituted for the regular work in social studies—kindergarten through college—are suggested for a week of consideration of the history, problems and needs of education in the Commonwealth.
3. Special centennial programs and other activities are suggested for the elementary schools, the high schools, the colleges and the public.
4. A summary is listed of educational objectives which our people should seek to attain in the future.

Original plans contemplated the distribution of the bulletin at the time of the meeting of the State Education Association in Philadelphia last December. The demands placed upon the Department for other services made this impossible. It is hoped, however, that this bulletin may be of service to teachers, administrators, and others in planning and organizing activities in connection with the celebration, both for PENNSYLVANIA EDUCATION WEEK during the first week in April, and in the development of further plans covering the continuing of activities which are to be carried on during the year, and which will culminate with the calling of a CITIZENS CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION in connection with the Education Congress next October. Activities carried on by the schools and other groups within the next few months will lay the foundation for the Citizens Conference to be called later.

PENNSYLVANIA EDUCATION WEEK has been set for April 1-7, 1934. This does not mean that observance of the centennial anniversary must be confined to this week. Details of the observance and the dates for special activities in the schools are in the hands of teachers and supervisory officials.

Herewith is listed a series of suggested projects which may be developed in connection with the celebration. Some are local, some can best be carried out on a county-wide basis, others have state-wide implications.

JAMES N. RULE
Superintendent of Public Instruction

A SUGGESTED PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL CENTENNIAL

Pennsylvania Education Week

A. Exercises in the Forum, Education Building, Harrisburg

Preliminary plans for the Department's share in the centennial celebration include one day and two evening programs in the Forum of the Education Building in Harrisburg. This program opens on Tuesday evening, April 3, with addresses by State officials and the possible dramatization of the passage and defense of the common schools law, 1834-1835. On Wednesday morning, April 4, in the Forum, will be held the first session of a proposed State-wide spelling bee. The afternoon program in the Forum will open with a demonstration of an old-fashioned singing school and close with the final session of the spelling bee. In the evening, it is hoped to dramatize a school session of one hundred years ago, followed by actual illustration of the processes involved in modern public school instruction.

B. It is suggested that this week be celebrated by appropriate exercises in each community in the State. Community-wide participation by all agencies and organizations interested in education should be sought. The following types of programs are suggestive:

1. Exercises honoring residents of the community, both those now living and those who contributed to the early development of education in the community.
2. Parent-teacher meetings featuring the needs of the schools and the development of public education in the State.
3. School assemblies and forums on the development of education in Pennsylvania.
4. Conferences of community leaders on public education problems and developments.
5. Open house at the school featuring the activities of the school.
6. Provision of capable speakers for regular meetings this week of Rotary, Kiwanis, Lion's and other service clubs, women's clubs, etc.
7. Education as a theme for church services on Sunday, April 8.
8. Pageants depicting "Then and Now" in public education, showing the growth and place of public education in the life of the Commonwealth.

Cooperation of Organizations—State and local organizations interested in education in the Commonwealth are cooperating in this program. Local committees and school officials should contact leaders in such organizations as Parent-Teacher Associations, His-

(Continued on Page 5, Column 2)

Library Exhibits Old Textbooks

In celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the public school system of the Commonwealth, the State Library has arranged an exhibit of early textbooks as well as material which formed a part in the enactment of the free schools law of 1834. Included in the display are original petitions from the inhabitants of the Commonwealth asking for support of a system of education, and letters from prospective teachers of the pauper schools giving the terms under which they would serve. Also there are various petitions to the Legislature and an outline of the Lancastrian method of education.

The textbook equipment of the old schools was exceedingly meagre. The fundamentals were thoroughly taught and mastered from textbooks as primitive as their surroundings.

There is no evidence to show that HORN BOOKS were used in Pennsylvania, but there is every reason to believe that they were. The schools in England had used them during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries also the New England colonies and Delaware. A Horn Book consisted of a sheet of paper about the size of a page of a Primer, on one side of which was printed the alphabet in small and capital letters, then the vowels and the Lord's Prayer. The name Horn Book originated in the fact that the printed sheet was covered by a thin piece of horn fastened by a brass border to a light board with a paddle-like handle.

The first Primers or A.B.C. books served as church books as well as school books. These contained hymns, creeds, prayers and catechisms as well as the alphabet and elementary lessons in reading. Not until the nineteenth century was there a regular series of READERS with graded lessons. The first of this group was Noah Webster's *An American Selection of Lessons in Reading.* Another of the most popular Readers was Bingham's *The American Preceptor.* The works of Lindley Murray were the most widely circulated. They were designed "to assist young persons to read with propriety and effect, to improve their language and to inculcate some of the most important principles of piety and virtue." Murray was superceded by the well known McGuffey's First to Fifth Reader.

The old SPELLING BOOK most popular was that of Thomas Dilworth. It was succeeded by one published by Noah Webster and that was eventually displaced by the work of Lindley Murray. Later the *New Pennsylvania Spelling Book,* by Byerly; *Philadelphia Spelling Book; Western Spelling Book; Cobb's Spelling Book* and Rupp's *Lyceum Spelling Book* were in general use.

Dilworth's *Schoolmaster's Assistant* was the principal ARITHMETIC used in the early schools but on account of its English rules it was soon discarded for those that were being published with the calculations given in "dollars and cents" rather than "pounds and shillings." Of these the most prominent were the "Arithmetics" of John Gough and Stephen Pike; Cruikshank's *American Tutor's Assistant* and Stockton's *Western Calculator.* A curious mixture of religious exercises and exercises in arithmetic was Fenning's *Ready Reckoner.* The most comprehensive of any was Fisher's *The American Instructor,* or, "Young Man's Best Companion, containing Spelling, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic in an easier way than any yet published."

Among the early GEOGRAPHIES was Theophilus Grew's *Description and Use of the Globes, Celestial and Terrestrial,* Peter Parley's *Method of Telling about Geography to Children* and *Geography Made Easy* by Jedidiah Morse. Later ones were Worcester's *Elements of Geography,* Woodbridge's *Universal Geography* and Mitchell's *System of Modern Geography.*

The GRAMMARS of Lindley Murray were used almost to the exclusion of every other work dealing with the subject. He was the first to introduce system into its treatment and is known as "the father of English grammar."

By 1850 the formative period in the manufacture of school books was over and while the later books are much better than the old, they do not have the picturesque interest and charm belonging to "beginnings."

N. E. Women's Clubs Cooperate In School Centennial Study

A typical public school centennial project program for women's clubs has been adopted by the Northeastern District of the Pennsylvania Federation of Women's Clubs. The district board at its November meeting in Scranton decided to stress the history of the public schools of the district for its educational work for the year 1934. Plans for the cooperation of each club in the region are being worked out by the educational department of the district.

The centennial topic will be used for the basis of programs and also as projects for the collection of materials relating to the history of local schools and their relation to the Commonwealth's school system. Studies are to be conducted on the old school curricula and on the contribution of the local schools to the community. It is also suggested that studies be conducted on school architecture, contrasting old and modern buildings. In writing of other possibilities for Women's Clubs, Miss Frances Dorrance of Wilkes-Barre says:

"Material for this study can often be found in people's attics; old papers, textbooks, photographs, and letters would give information on all these different points. A general search could be made a community effort and the location of such valuable documents with reports and exhibits at meetings could make a very interesting afternoon.

"But once located this material should not be allowed to lie unguarded even in the best of club houses, for the management of clubs does change and the point of view with it. The things found should be deposited for safe keeping in such an institution as an historical society, or a library in which the policy will be continuous no matter what the change in management, and where there is provision for storing and protection of such material. If there is not one in the locality, it could be possible to send the things after finishing with them to the nearest institution of that nature where they would be guarded carefully and yet made available for study."

PAN AMERICAN DAY

April 14 is to be observed as Pan American Day. This day falls on Saturday and many schools are arranging programs for one of the days immediately preceding April 14, and others are planning observance during the following week. Special materials have been prepared for schools and other groups and may be obtained from the Pan American Union, Washington, D. C.

Old School Room In Museum

The interior of the average school room, as it looked in 1834 when the Common Schools Law was passed, is the State Museum's contribution to the 100th anniversary celebration of the passage of the Common Schools Law. The exhibit shows the heating, furniture, textbook and supplies equipment of a century ago.

Of unusual interest is the old stove of the "cannon" type used in 1834 and for many years after in the Landis Valley School, Lancaster County. Equally interesting is the furniture, including a long wall desk and long bench without a back; four and two pupil desks with bench, hand-made; hand-made double desk with attached seat in front; double desk with single seats and hinged tops; and an early manufactured desk, all arranged so as to show the evolution of school seating. There is a teacher's desk, chair, and bell, and a dunce stool. The school furniture and other furnishings were secured in Chester, Adams, and Dauphin Counties.

Showing a striking contrast to the elaborate present day curriculum is the simple course of study of 1834—orthography, reading, penmanship and arithmetic—written on the black-board which is attached to the front wall of the school room.

In cases surrounding the exhibit is a collection of textbooks, slates, pencils, inkstands, sand jars and quill pens—all of the 1834 period. In this collection are the early spellers, readers, arithmetics, penmanship books, and a copy of an English grammar by the Pennsylvanian, Lindley Murray, who was the first in America to write an English grammar.

The collection will remain on exhibit until January 1, 1935.

One hundred years after free public schools were established, Pennsylvania has 12,319 school buildings in use. More than half of them, 6,511, are one-room schools. There are 2,585 school districts in the State.

VISIT THE STATE CAPITOL

The combination of the Easter vacation in the public schools and Pennsylvania's school centennial celebration should give opportunity for school children to visit the State Capitol under ideal conditions. Preliminary steps are under way to guide visitors through the Capitol group with special attention to the Education Building and its outstanding Forum, and the State Library and State Museum with their special school centennial exhibits. School officials may organize voluntary excursion trips by train or bus, or suggest to parents through the children that they take advantage of the vacation period to make an automobile trip to the State Capitol.. Those who organize excursion trips are requested to notify the Department of Public Instruction well in advance of the trip so that arrangements may be made for their reception.. Monday and Tuesday, April 2 and 3, are suggested as the most opportune times.

Typical Centennial Program Given

A typical school, college and community program for the celebration of the public school centennial has been arranged by various interested organizations in Indiana, Pennsylvania. Many other communities may obtain suggestions from this plan. A citizens' committee is working with the public schools officials on the program for observance of the occasion in the city. Dr. C. R. Foster, President of the State Teachers College in Indiana, advises that the following general plan is being worked out:

Because the public school and college Easter vacation would interfere with formal observance of the centennial during the week of April 1-7, they have decided to celebrate during the following week, April 8-14.

All ministers of the city have agreed to preach sermons on education on Sunday, April 8.

On Monday evening there will be a civic banquet with participation by the Rotary Club, the Lions Club, the Kiwanis Club, the New Century Club, the Chamber of Commerce, and several other organizations. Dr. M. J. Walsh, author of *A History of Education in Pennsylvania*, will be the principal speaker on this occasion.

A prominent Pennsylvania college president has been invited to address the faculty and student body at the college on Tuesday morning, and the citizens' meeting in the Indiana High School in the evening.

Historical, educational pageants portraying the development of education in Pennsylvania are planned to be given in the training school of the college and in all public schools of the city. In addition, a pageant will be given in the high school auditorium in the evening.

Educational exhibits will be held at the college and at the high school. The exhibit at the college will portray the development of textbooks, public school architecture, and the development of educational methods during the last one hundred years. The high school exhibit will be of a local nature portraying the development of education in the city of Indiana. These exhibits will be open during the entire week of April 8.

The college is developing an historical pageant for the benefit of the schools of its service area. It will be a pageant that can be given in any of the schools of the area.

Lafayette Anniversary

The one hundredth anniversary of the death of General Lafayette, May 20, 1934, is to be observed widely throughout the United States. The American Friends of Lafayette, an organization of more than seven hundred writers and collectors of Lafayette material, is directing plans for the observance of the day. Programs for public school pupils are being arranged. The occasion will be observed in the schools on May 18th and May 21st. Dr. William Mather Lewis, President of Lafayette College, is chairman of the Committee on Educational Institutions. Interesting material on the life of General Lafayette especially prepared for schools may be secured by addressing him at Easton, Pa.

Suggested Centennial Activities

(Concluded from Page 3)

torical Societies, Civic Clubs, American Legion, Federated Womens' Clubs, Service Clubs, Y's, Labor Organizations, Manufacturers' Associations and other organizations.

Compiling Local History of Education—Many boys and girls are not familiar with the development of public education in their own community, and of the contribution which has been made by public education to community life. In many of these communities, no adequate history of public education has yet been written. The writing of such a history makes a worthwhile school project. Each community in the State should emerge from this celebration with a better understanding of the history of public education, both in the community and the State. A cooperative project with local historical societies should be particularly helpful.

Festivals—The centennial celebration offers many opportunities for the development of school, city and county play festivals.

Collection and Preservation of Historical Documents—Through various classes and through individual pupils, an attempt should be made to locate important source documents in the community. These source documents include such things as the following: Teachers' attendance records, minutes of school boards, letters describing school life or relating in any way to the schools, old textbooks, copy books, pupils' note books, copies of old newspapers. A State-wide historical survey is now under way. This survey will bring to light many important educational sources.

Museum Exhibits—Books used one hundred years ago, blackboards, teacher's desks, and other like material may well be made a part of museum collections. In some schools and communities, this opportunity may be used to start museum collections.

Promotion and Commencement Exercises—It is suggested that the theme for promotion and commencement exercises for this year be "One Hundred Years of Public Education in Pennsylvania."

Community Study Groups—Many local civic organizations and study groups are planning to use the problems of the growth and development of public education as a study topic.

Study by State School Directors' Association—Plans are being laid, through the State School Directors' Association, to make cooperative studies of problems in the field of public education, looking toward a more effective organization of education in the Commonwealth.

Course of Study Units—So as to provide appropriate curriculum materials for present use and for later use, the development of units of study in the various grades on the history and development of public education is urged.

Citizen's Conference—In connection with the Educational Congress to be held in Harrisburg on October 10 and 11, 1934, there will be called a Citizen's Conference on public education. This will be the "culminating exercise" of the centennial celebration in the State. Preparatory to this conference, many local and county conferences will be held throughout the State.

School Aid Bills In Congress

A dozen bills have been introduced in Congress covering various phases of possible Federal relief for education. A series of hearings on several bills looking to direct appropriations for school relief was started on February 26 by the House Education Committee.

Outstanding in the bills to be considered in the hearings is the George-Ellzey Bill (S. 2402-H. R. 7479) which would provide $50,000,000 in RFC funds for direct aid to schools for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1934, and $100,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1935.

It is to be noted that this bill covers provisions of points one and two in the recommendations of the Federal Advisory Committee on the Emergency in Education which worked many months last fall under the chairmanship of Pennsylvania's Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. James N. Rule. When this committee completed its work and submitted its six-point program it appointed the National Committee for Federal Emergency Aid for Education under the chairmanship of James H. Richmond, Superintendent of Public Instruction in Kentucky. This committee has been working in the interests of the recommendations of Superintendent Rule's group and national support has resulted.

Actual assistance on point one of the program came on February 1 when Federal Relief Administrator Hopkins announced that additional grants would be provided for more unemployed teachers in communities up to 5000 population where existing funds are insufficient. This plan is in operation in many states where such assistance has been needed.

On the same day on which the administration made provisions for keeping open the doors of the schools in small communities, a plan to assist needy college students was announced by Mr. Hopkins and partially covers point six in the recommendations of Superintendent Rule's committee. It is estimated that 100,000 students will be helped to attend college during the second semester of this year through provision of from $5,000,000 to $7,000,000, the exact amount depending on the number of students who qualify. State emergency relief administrations have been authorized to provide part-time jobs at the colleges for needy students up to ten per cent of their regular enrollment of full-time students as of October 15, 1933.

Other bills introduced in Congress and which would provide the funds for other purposes set forth in the six-point program of Superintendent Rule's committee includes one to authorize the RFC to make ten-year loans to school districts through the purchase of bonds issued by the board of education. Another would authorize the RFC to loan money to religious and educational institutions for aid in the construction of buildings. Another would authorize the RFC to purchase school warrants issued in payment of teachers' salaries. A House bill would authorize the RFC to make loans to school districts secured by a pledge of revenue income, and another would authorize the RFC to make loans to municipalities and school districts for the immediate payment of teachers' deferred and present salaries. An additional bill would make teachers' warrants eligible paper for loans from the RFC.

Pennsylvania Historical Group Issues Quarterly Magazine

A welcome newcomer in the field of Pennsylvania publications is *Pennsylvania History*, the official organ of the Pennsylvania Historical Association. Volume 1, Number 1, made its appearance in January and will be issued quarterly, edited by Dr. Arthur C. Bining, University of Pennsylvania.

The first issue of 64 pages contains articles of particular interest to school people: "A Brief Bibliography of Pennsylvania History for High School Teachers" by Dr. Wayland F. Dunaway, Pennsylvania State College, and "Research Projects in Pennsylvania History" by Dr. Paul W. Gates, Bucknell University. The publication is distributed to all members of the Association which was organized in May, 1933, by persons interested in promoting a wider interest in the field of Pennsylvania History. Charter memberships are open until the second annual conference during the first week-end in May. Annual dues are moderate and application blanks for membership may be obtained from Miss Frances Dorrance, Chairman of the Membership Committee, 69 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre.

Membership in this Association should appeal particularly to public school officials, teachers of history and librarians.

The Association is not sectional but rather is state-wide and all interests in the State will be represented so that specialists in any field in Pennsylvania History will be benefited by joining.

Members will receive the quarterly publication and will also have the right to purchase all other publications at a price below the trade cost.

Tuberculosis Campaign

Under the slogan, "Tuberculosis Robs You —Public Health Protects You," the tuberculosis societies will conduct an educational campaign this spring.

Parents and teachers are vitally concerned with the effort to control tuberculosis because while it is mainly a family disease it is at the same time a public enemy.

Recent years of strain, underfeeding and neglect of personal health have left scars, especially among children. It is important that health recovery accompany economic rehabilitation. It is to assist in this health recovery that the tuberculosis societies plan a Health Recovery of Early Diagnosis campaign to begin April 1. In order to obtain the benefits offered by science and to prevent disease, it is necessary to act as an organized group.

The school health program can be an important factor in advancing or retarding the progress of the community's health development. This program exists for the benefit of the child and ultimately for the community. Such school health programs comprise three main phases:

Health service, health education and physical education.

The tuberculosis societies have been active in cooperating with the home and school in an effort to forward the control of tuberculosis and to improve health conditions. Parents and teachers will greatly aid this important service through supporting the spring health education campaign. Organized on a country-wide basis by the National Tuberculosis Association the campaign in this State is conducted by the Pennsylvania Tuberculosis Society (311 S. Juniper St., Philadelphia) and its affiliated organizations.

Larger Unit Study

(Concluded from Page 1)

study of his proposals before passing final judgment. His suggested program followed a general statement of problems with which Pennsylvania public schools are confronted, chiefly financial difficulties.

"We need a modern, knee-action, stream line machine that will eliminate jars and pressures, in place of the present horse and buggy type of school organization," Dr. Rule said in summarizing his recommendations for study by directors of the all-around advantages to be had in the larger unit of school administration.

He asked immediate cooperative study so that an acceptable plan might be submitted to the 1935 Legislature. His specific request was for "the type of reorganized school district best suited to Pennsylvania's needs and resources."

Dr. Rule urged that private and political interests be set aside in favor of the welfare of pupils and an equal educational chance for all. He cited the hundreds denied high school opportunities this year because local districts cannot pay non-resident tuition.

In his discussion of problems immediately confronting school administration the State Superintendent reviewed the teacher salary and non-resident high school tuition situation where it is estimated at least $5,000,000 would be necessary to clear the slate throughout the State. Another problem is presented in reduction of local revenues and the distress resulting from school funds being tied up in closed banks.

State Aid Reduced Next Year

The speaker explained that the entire reduction in State subsidies applied to the coming school year and that it means approximately a twenty per cent reduction in the amount which normally would have been required. He said the special aid fund of $5,000,000 should enable bankrupt districts to keep schools open for the minimum term for the remainder of this year and probably all of next.

Other problems involve restoration of desirable educational services. He stressed need for relief of the tax load now being carried by realty. He asked that directors cooperate in restoration and reconstruction of the educational program so that every child may obtain foundational training and instruction necessary to social and civic competence. School superintendents, patrons, school directors, and the State can cooperate to solve this problem, he said.

On the financial end of the recovery program the speaker suggested a system of school support whereby the State pays to each school district the difference between the cost of a foundation program and the proceeds of a uniform local tax levy. He also would revise the State system of taxation so that different forms of taxable wealth will bear their proportionate share. He also would restore the normal purchasing power of public school employes for the school year 1935-36 in harmony with the National Recovery Program by returning teacher salaries to their normal level. To place the recovery program of school finance in operation, he said, school directors and educational leaders in every community should arrange for a series of meetings to form and develop public opinion relative to the problem of school finance in terms of local school needs and tax burdens. He urged action in time for presentation at the 1935 session of the Legislature.

A Clarification of Statement Made at School Directors' Convention

One of the questions raised at the School Directors' Convention had reference to the right of a board of school directors to abate penalties on taxes. Attention was called to the provisions of Act 75 passed by the 1933 Session. This act authorizes boards of school directors to provide for the abatement of penalties on taxes by passing a resolution containing a provision that such taxes must be paid within three months from the date the ordinance or resolution takes effect. In fourth class districts the five per cent penalty is added if the taxes are not paid by October 1. Some of those present thought from the answer given to the question that if the abatement was not made previous to October 1 it could not be made. It was not the intention to convey this idea. The abatement may be made at any time by the passage of the resolution provided in the act, but manifestly the advantage to the taxpayer decreases proportionately according to the delay in passing the resolution in providing for the abatement inasmuch as the act further provides that—

> "In default of such payment the penalty shall continue to be imposed in the same manner as if said ordinance or resolution had not been adopted. Such ordinance or resolution may provide for a different amount of abatement of penalties in proportion to the promptness of payment of the delinquent taxes, but no abatement shall be authorized which would result in the amount of the penalty unabated being less than interest at the rate of six per centum on the delinquent taxes from the date when such taxes became delinquent."

Apparently a board of directors may provide for an abatement of penalties as is provided in the act at any time, but the amount of the penalties unabated may never be less than the interest at the rate of six per cent on the delinquent taxes from the date when such taxes became delinquent.

W. M. DENISON,
Deputy Superintendent

Farm Show Winners

Vocational school winners at the 1934 State Farm Show included the following:

Home Economics demonstrations—First, South Lebanon Township, Lebanon County, $70.00; second, Hopewell Township, Bedford County, $60.00; third, Trinity High School, Washington County, $45.00.

Agriculture demonstrations—First, Benton Township, Lackawanna County, $80.00; second, Bedford High School, Bedford County, $70.00; third, S. Lebanon Township, Lebanon County, $60.00.

Home Economics window exhibits—First, Huntingdon Township, Luzerne County, $60.00; second, Lower Paxton High School, Dauphin County, $50.00; third, Washingtonville-Jerseytown, Columbia-Montour Counties, $45.00.

Agriculture window exhibits—First, Oley Township, Berks County, $60.00; second, Unionville Vocational School, Chester County, $50.00; third, Lycoming County High Schools, $45.00.

NEW SUPERINTENDENT

Carl S. Baily has been elected District Superintendent of the Swissvale Borough Schools, effective November 1, 1933, succeeding C. C. Kelso.

School Directors and Secretaries Meet

School Reorganization Considered at Directors' Convention

The direct cause for financial difficulties in Pennsylvania schools is the fact that many thousands of real estate owners are unable to pay their taxes, Mrs. Gifford Pinchot said in her address at the thirty-ninth annual convention of the Pennsylvania School Directors' Association in the Forum of the Education Building in Harrisburg on February 7 and 8. She advocated an income tax for school support. General tax and finance problems, and decision to appoint a committee to cooperate in larger unit studies were features of the convention.

The directors' convention was one of the most sucecssful held in many years and brought viewpoints from many prominent educators and school administrators on various timely phases of public education. These included a discussion of the relationship between school districts and NRA requirements by E. E. Babb, Jr., of Boston; points on how labor can help the schools by John Phillips, president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor; a highly inspirational talk on the advantages of education by the Rev. Dr. Henry H. Crane, of Scranton; discussion of modern programs of public instruction by Dr. George D. Strayer, Teachers College, Columbia University; the present day value of art education by C. Valentine Kirby, Department of Public Instruction; some interesting taxation statistics by John C. Dight, Deputy Secretary of Internal Affairs; and the annual question box feature on school law conducted by W. M. Denison, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction. Two talks by Samuel Grafflin, White Plains, N. Y., one at the annual banquet, were especially well received by the convention.

Larger Unit Discussed

The present economic difficulties have disclosed a number of problems of efficiency in the internal management of public schools, according to Dr. Ben G. Graham, Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Public Schools, who discussed "The Efficiency of School Administration." The first critical issue is maintenance of essential services with decreased revenues; the second is defending the school program and sustaining the morale of the teachers; the third is maintenance of health and physical welfare of children; and the fourth critical issue is that of improving the efficiency of general school administration. On this latter point the speaker declared that the most important phase of this problem in Pennsylvania is providing for a larger school unit in favor of economy and efficiency in administration. He added that school directors can do more by their unified effort to bring about larger units of administration through their support of proper legislation than any other group in the State.

Congressman J. Buell Snyder reviewed changes that have taken place in the public schools during the past 100 years and emphasized the need for reorganization of the existing school unit plan in Pennsylvania. He said in part:

"The little one-room school, although it met the needs of an earlier day, should pass away just as have the ox-cart and the stage-coach. The small school district also has outlived its day even if it is found by the thousands throughout the country. Larger units for the purpose of administration and support would help solve the problems of many school districts. Such a unit should be at least large enough to support an approved high school.

"When all school districts were about equally wealthy, one district could support schools about as well as another, but all this has been changed. Some districts have many more times the ability to support schools than have others. The problem of equalization of the burden of school support is one that needs to be solved in practically every state, and especially in Pennsylvania.

"The social, political, and economic set-up we have been following for forty years no longer functions."

Edmonds Suggests Sales Tax

Franklin Spencer Edmonds, sponsor of the present teachers' salary act, also declared that the existing taxation system of the State must be reorganized. He cited instances where other States distributed the entire burden and contributed a larger share of State support. He advocated Federal support of education and favored a Federal manufacturers sales tax of two and one-half per cent which he estimated would yield $600,000,000 and which could be collected economically by the Federal government. He suggested that half of the sales tax fund go to the states for support of education. He estimated Pennsylvania's share as $30,000,000 which could be applied to direct relief for realty taxpayers.

The address of Superintendent Rule and partial reports of the legislative and resolutions committees appear elsewhere in this issue.

Officers elected for the coming year are: president, David A. Miller, Allentown; 1st vice-president, Mrs. Warren Marshall, Swarthmore; 2nd vice-president, C. E. Patterson, Turtle Creek; 3rd vice-president, Dr. William K. McBride, Harrisburg; and secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Anna Dickinson, Harrisburg. Directors: J. Foster Meck, Altoona; H. J. Stockton, Johnstown; C. H. Gross, R. D., Manchester; Charles R. Rasel, E. McKeesport; and Dr. W. A. Roberts, Newtown. Approximately 1200 attended the convention.

School Director's Program Included In Schoolmen's Week

An attractive program has been announced for the school directors' session at the annual Schoolmen's Week, University of Pennsylvania, on Thursday, March 15. The theme of the day's session is "The Ideal School Director Must Combine Study With Service."

"The School Board in Action" is the subject for the morning session with the following speakers: Mrs. Warren Marshall, Swarthmore, 1st vice-president of the State School Directors' Association; John Yates, Harrisburg School Board; and William Vandegrift, Charlestown Consolidated School Board, Phoenixville. Discussion will be opened by Dr. Carmon Ross, president of the P.S.E.A.

At the afternoon session "School Finance" is the special topic for consideration with the following speakers: Leon D. Metzger, Secretary of Revenue, Harrisburg; Dr. James N. Rule, Superintendent of Public Instruction; and Dr. Harlan Updegraff, United States Office of Education. Discussion will be opened by Walter Biddle Saul, member, Philadelphia Board of Education.

Secretaries Discuss School Finance Problems

More than 600 attended the twenty-first annual convention of the Association of School Board Secretaries of Pennsylvania held in the Forum of the Education Building at Harrisburg on Tuesday, February 6. The theme was "Budgeting and Finance—Constructive Economy."

Dr. Homer P. Rainey, president of Bucknell University, in the opening address declared that the present crisis in education is due to the fact that "for the last fifty years we have been developing a public school program on a taxation system that was entirely inadequate to carry the rapidly expanding program." He also said that for years there has been need for a complete revision of our whole system of financial support and administrative organization and also a sound policy of administrating the local units.

Dr. George D. Strayer, of Teachers College, Columbia University, said there are sufficient resources to support public education but our methods of obtaining that support needs serious reconsideration. "So long as we depend primarily on the local property tax for public education," he said, "just that long will there be individual communities that cannot raise enough money to maintain their schools." He recommended a program of equalized support for public education.

Doctor Strayer urged attention of the public to the possibility of savings in other areas in order to maintain education. Millions are diverted to public roads and buildings out of proportion to Federal relief for education, he said. Elimination of the so-called fads and frills of education he branded as false economy.

Resolutions were adopted voicing appreciation of the services of the speakers and retiring officers. The association by resolution also changed its constitution to provide four regular standing committees—executive, legislative, accounting, and membership. At a round table conference conducted by H. G. Berkhouse, Kane, a number of questions were answered relative to the duties of school board secretaries.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: president, F. C. E. Mihlhouse, Pottstown; vice-president, Mrs. Helen K. Thompson, Greenville; secretary, Miss Mary E. Robbins, Sunbury; and treasurer, Willis H. Lady, Biglerville. Executive Committee: Harold R. Kratz, Norristown, for a one-year term and H. W. Hoover, Polk, for a two-year term. Mr. G. A. Mincemoyer, Mechanicsburg, is the retiring president of the association.

Secretaries and school directors attended the annual reception given this year by Mrs. Pinchot in the absence of the Governor. The affair was held in the Education Building and in addition to Mrs. Pinchot those in the reception line included Superintendent and Mrs. James N. Rule, Mrs. Ida E. Wallace, Swissvale, retiring president of the State School Directors' Association, and G. A. Mincemoyer, Mechanicsburg, retiring president of the State School Secretaries' Association. The reception was followed by an entertainment program in the Forum.

So many entries are expected in the finals of the State Championship Spelling Bee in Harrisburg on April 4, that eliminations probably will be started at 10 A.M.

INSTRUCTIONAL ITEMS

Social studies teachers will find helpful material for use in presenting the National Recovery Program in the January 1934 issue of School Life, the official organ of the United States Office of Education. A diagram showing the organization of the various administrations set up by the National Recovery Act is given. The September 1933 issue of School Life also presented some very interesting material entitled "Ten Thumb Nail Sketches of Ten New Federal Agencies." School Life may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. The subscription price is fifty cents a year.

The following materials in the field of home economics and child care may be obtained from the Department of Public Instruction:

(1) Home Economics Activities for Adult Groups
(2) A Project to Determine the Results of Teaching in the Field of Home Economics by Recording Definite Evidences of Pupil Growth for Instructional Units
(3) Child Care and Nutrition bulletins prepared by the Children's Bureau and the Bureau of Home Economics in Washington
(4) Getting the Most for Your Food Money, prepared by Nutrition Advisory Committee, State Emergency Relief Board, Harrisburg

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Add to bibliography for Health Instruction:

PALMER, BERTHA R. Syllabus in Alcohol Education. National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, 1730 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, Illinois; also, Pennsylvania State Headquarters, W.T.C.U., 220 Pine Street, Harrisburg.

AMERICAN CHILD HEALTH ASSOCIATION. The ACH Index of Nutritional Status. 12 pages. 10 cents. American Child Health Association, 470 Seventh Avenue, New York City.

The ACH Index is a new form of measurement to aid physicians in the selection of undernourished children. It has distinct advantages over the weight for height and age method of selecting undernourished children. It is based on arm girth, chest depth, and hip width.

NUTRITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE. Getting the Most for Your Food Money; supplementary leaflets on Bread and Cereals, Meat and Fish, Milk, One-dish Meals.

Teachers developing units on foods may obtain the above bulletins from the Department of Public Instruction, Harrisburg.

ACCREDITED SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Commission on Secondary Schools of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools has accredited 632 public and private secondary schools for 1934. Approximately 250 of these are Pennsylvania schools. The Commission serves as a fact-finding and rating agency in preparing annually a list of accredited secondary schools in the Middle States, the District of Columbia, and the Panama Canal Zone and functions also as a clearing house for information of a professional character concerning these schools. The Commission's office is at the University of Pennsylvania.

School Law

Q.—May a board of school directors in view of the provisions of Section 1205 of the school laws cancel the contracts of all teachers and then re-employ them for the ensuing year at the minimum salary prescribed by law for new entrants?

A.—An Opinion by the Department of Justice dated February 6, 1934, answers this question as follows:

You report to us that a certain school district, before the close of the last school term, cancelled all contracts with its teachers, and subsequently re-employed them on new contracts. The new contracts are based on the statutory basic minimums provided by the School Code for new employes of a school district and do not include the increments prescribed for old employes. For example, a teacher who was entitled under the salary schedules of the School Code to a salary of $1600 in the school year 1932-1933 has been employed on a new contract for the present year at a salary of $1200.

You ask whether such a practice conforms to the requirements of the law.

Section 1210 of the School Code establishes a schedule of minimum salaries and minimum increments for teachers in various types of school districts. The real question here is whether a school district can avoid paying the statutory increments by cancelling the contracts of its teachers each year and re-employing them for the next year.

Paragraph 10 of Section 1210 of the School Code provides as follows:

> 'The increments herein provided for are applicable only where the beneficiaries thereof remain in the service of the same school district. Where such teachers enter a new district, they shall enter at a point in the schedule to be agreed upon between said teacher and the employing districts, which agreement shall be made a part of the contract between them.'

We have no hesitation in saying that the practice outlined above does not conform to the requirements of the law. Any other conclusion would completely nullify the increment provisions of the School Code. It is the clear intention of the law that teachers shall be entitled to increments as long as they remain in the employ of a single school district. Only when they go to a new district do they lose the benefit of the increments to which they become entitled by reason of continuous service.

We note that the school district to which you refer has not obtained any permission from the Superintendent of Public Instruction to reduce its salaries below the statutory schedule as it might do under the Act of April 25, 1933, P. L. 69. Of course, where proper authorization for a reduction below the statutory schedules has been obtained, salaries may be reduced within the limits of that authorization.

Therefore, we advise you that a school district may not avoid the increment requirements of the statutory salary schedule by cancelling teachers' contracts and re-employing them for the next school term as new employes.

Since 1916 the number of Pennsylvania high school pupils electing to study stenography has increased from less than 5000 to almost 40,000. In 1916 the percentage of all high school pupils preparing to become stenographers was 6.6, and latest available figures show almost 12 per cent receiving this type of instruction. Those studying typewriting now number almost 60,000, or more than 17 per cent of all high school pupils.

HIGHER EDUCATION "HEADLINES"

JUNIATA—Ten scholarships have been established for the four years beginning September, 1934. Five, valued at $800 each, are available for boarding students; five, valued at $400 each, are available for day students. The basis of award will be a competitive examination at the college on May 5.

FRANKLIN AND MARSHALL—Hungarian Day was observed February 27. The Hungarian Cross of Merit was presented to President Henry Harbaugh Apple by His Excellency, John Pelenyi, Minister of Hungary, Washington, D. C., in recognition of the service of Dr. Apple in the education of students of Hungarian parentage in America.

DREXEL—To maintain and strengthen the bond which exists between Drexel Institute and its alumni, special courses for Drexel Alumni have been established by the college. The courses, which are for graduates only and are given without charge, consist of classes in current economics and public speaking. Sixty graduates have enrolled for the work which is to extend over a period of twenty weeks.

PENN STATE—Twenty new courses were made available at the beginning of the second semester designed to have the curricula conform with current trends in industry and the various professions.

TEMPLE—The fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the university was observed with impressive programs, February 11 to 17.

LEHIGH—Annual Sub-Freshman Day, the purpose of which is to give prospective students a chance to look Lehigh over, will be held April 21.

SETON HILL—The college will officially observe the public school centennial on the evening of March 21. Students in art, education, and dramatics will present a pageant depicting the founding and development of the public school system.

CHEYNEY—Students of the Training School for Teachers will give a return engagement of "Jethro" in the Forum of the Education Building at Harrisburg, Friday evening, March 2. The performance is for the benefit of the student loan fund.

Rules For Pennsylvania State-Wide Old-Fashioned Spelling Bee

Public School Centennial Celebration

Participants shall be adults not now in school or college as students or teachers.

Each county to have one representative in the finals at Harrisburg. A "runner-up" should be chosen as alternate in each county.

Selections to be made by County Superintendent by any method he may choose. Sectional or district preliminaries with a final county elimination are recommended.

Representatives for the final event at Harrisburg are to be selected, and names reported to Department of Public Instruction, on or before Monday, March 26, 1934.

Finals to be held in the Forum of State Education Building, Harrisburg, Wednesday, April 4, 1934.

Words in final "Bee" to be selected from Sunday editions of the Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and New York newspapers.

Usual rules of old spelling bees to be used.